

Dear Born In Africa, Godparents and sponsors

This is by far the toughest letter I have ever had to write. I am writing this with a heavy yet joyful heart. Four years went by so quickly. Words cannot express the gratitude I have for BIA; its staff, Godparents and their families, the volunteers, and everyone who helped in making our journeys a reality...THANK YOU.

I remember the stress of not knowing whether I will go to University or whether I would even receive funding. I am grateful for the angel that introduced me to Born in Africa (BIA). From volunteering during camps to volunteering during my gap year, I have been humbled by the work that BIA has done for the community. I reminisce about my volunteering days at BIA – oh, what an adventure to my post-graduate year of University. I look back and think, I would not have had it any other way. It has been an interesting journey enabling me to discover more about myself.

I appreciate the love and support given by the BIA family. BIA has taught me to be selfless and considerate of others despite their background or circumstance. I think of those weekly and quarterly letters... I will miss expressing the journey of university life and the lessons it comes with.

BIA has not only given me the opportunity to further my education but also the opportunity to create a network and gain skills to grow as an adult. I have had the privilege to learn and nurture new skills such as acting in drama, leadership and mentoring skills in peer helping, orientation assistance for first years and planning and presenting skills in an academic society.

My gratitude will not only be expressed in words, but in my actions as well. I vow to make something of myself and persevere, by helping my fellow man. In Xhosa, we say 'Umntu ngumntu ngabantu' which translates to 'a person is a person because of people'. In my view, this means that we do not live in an isolated world but with other people. We help each other every single day without knowing, no matter how small.

This is not a goodbye but a fresh start to the new journey. I will forever cherish the gift of resources BIA has given me to build my bridge to reach my goals and dreams. ENKOSI, THANK YOU, BAIE DANKIE. 😊

Love

Siya

